

**Title: “Venus, the epitome of the modern day Woman”**

**Dimension:**

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**Program: Textiles**

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**200 Words describing your work:**

**Humans are sexual beings and their depiction in art presents an image of how they should look, act, sound and dress.**

**This model of the modern day women is now seen in music videos, movies, magazines and TV commercials. She has a thin waist, big breasts, large butt and long legs. She is stripping in gentlemen’s clubs, dancing in music videos, and selling cigarettes to anyone that is 18 and older. She is a mother, sister, daughter, aunt and wife. This woman is voluntarily reverting back to the days of Venus Hottentot. Venus Hottentot was a woman of African descent that was forced into a Freak show in Europe to show off her unusually large body parts. She became the symbol of sexuality for Non-European races. She had a large butt, large breasts and elongated labia which was characteristic of her tribe. The audience would touch, poke and even play with her body parts. Recognized as Sara Baartman, this Khoikhoi slave was forced to give away her power as a woman. Baartman later became an icon of racial inferiority and black female sexuality. This identity is unknown to women of this day and age. They say if you don’t know your history you will repeat it, and due to ignorance and the power of society over the minds of people, women are becoming voluntary Hottentot’s. Not valuing their bodies as temples and giving away their power one thong at a time, women are being denigrated and devalued. With this piece I challenge all women to take their power back and become the woman that we were created to be.**

**Image of your work:**